

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-39 are pending in the application. In response to the restriction requirement, which the examiner imposed, applicants elected the claims of Group I, *i.e.*, claims 1-8 and 21-39. Thus, claims 9-20 stand withdrawn, and claims 1-8 and 21-39 are under consideration and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, §103 and for obviousness-type double-patenting. The specific grounds for rejection, and applicants response thereto, are set out in detail below.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The claims stand rejected, variously, as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,294,443. Applicants have amended the claims to recite that the *Tripterygium wilfordii* Hook F root preparation is an ethanol extract. Also now required the co-administration of a steroid. As such, it is believed the rejection is overcome.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8 and 21-39 are rejected over the '443 in view of Wiedman or Su. Applicants have amended the claims to recite that the *Tripterygium wilfordii* Hook F root preparation is an ethanol extract. Also now required the co-administration of a steroid. As such, it is believed the rejection is overcome.

IV. Rejections for Obviousness-Type Double-Patenting

Claims 1-8 and 21-39 are rejected as obvious over claims of the '443 patent. Applicants have amended the claims to recite that the *Tripterygium wilfordii* Hook F root preparation is an

ethanol extract. Also now required the co-administration of a steroid. As such, it is believed the rejection is overcome.

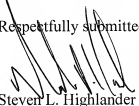
Claims 1-7, 21-23 and 25-39 are rejected as obvious over the claims of the '562 patent. Applicants have amended the claims to recite that the *Tripterygium wilfordii* Hook F root preparation is an ethanol extract. Also now required the co-administration of a steroid. As such, it is believed the rejection is overcome.

Claims 1-8 and 21-39 stand rejected as obvious over the claims of the '564 patent. Applicants have amended the claims to recite that the *Tripterygium wilfordii* Hook F root preparation is an ethanol extract. Also now required the co-administration of a steroid. As such, it is believed the rejection is overcome.

V. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this response.

Respectfully submitted,


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